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# **Hanover, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1728-1818. RG4920**

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	First Congregational Church (Hanover, Mass.)
<b>Title:</b>	Hanover, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1728-1818.
<b>ID:</b>	RG4920
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1728-1818
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.24 Cubic Feet (1 box, 3 reels)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The First Congregation Church of Hanover, Massachusetts, was gathered on December 5, 1728, and the Rev. Benjamin Bass was ordained as the first minister on December 11. The first meeting house was completed in 1728. Construction on the second meeting house was completed in 1765. The third meeting house was constructed in 1826 and was destroyed by fire in 1863. The fourth and final meeting house was constructed in 1864. In 1961 the church joined with the United Church of Christ. The church continues to serve the local community today. This collection contains the earliest church records and includes church meeting minutes, membership records, and vital records.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Hanover, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1728-1818, RG4920. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Historical Note

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First settled in 1649, the westernmost portion of Scituate was incorporated as the town of Hanover, Massachusetts, in 1727. By the end of the year a location for the first meeting house was chosen. Construction began in late 1727 and ended the following year. Benjamin Bass, a 1715 graduate of Harvard, was called to become the first minister of the First Congregational Church in Hanover. The church was formally gathered on December 5, 1728, with ten members subscribed to the covenant, and Bass was ordained a few days later on December 11.

During Rev. Bass's pastorate, he oversaw the transition to a "new way" of singing in in 1742 and opened the first lending library in Hanover, though it was limited to members of the church. Rev. Bass served as the minister until his death in 1756. He was followed by Rev. Samuel Baldwin. By 1764 it was decided that the first meeting house could no longer comfortably accommodate the growing parish; construction on the second meeting house was completed in 1765. In 1784 the church spire was replaced with a belfry to accommodate a gift of a bell from Thomas Josselyn, an original member and deacon of the church.

In 1824, Rev. Seth Chapin resigned, and was subsequently dismissed by an ecclesiastical council, over the church's inability to meet his salary requirements. Shortly after his resignation, the Female Helping Society was formed with the purpose of raising funds to support the minister's salary. In 1826 construction on the third meeting house was begun and the building's dedication service was the following year. On March 10, 1854, 32 members were dismissed to organize a Trinitarian Church; this became the Second Congregational Church and was also known as the Four Corners Church. On January 18, 1863 the third meeting house, and also the town hall, was destroyed by a fire. The fourth, and final, meeting house was dedicated on April 27, 1864. In 1868 the church voted to allow women to attend parish meetings.

In 1920 the church and society were incorporated under a single legal entity: The First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts. During the twentieth-century, the church greatly expanded its Christian Education program. In 1961 the church joined the United Church of Christ. The First Congregational Church of Hanover continues to serve the local community today.

<b>Ministers</b>	
Benjamin Bass	1728-1756
Samuel Baldwin	1756-1780
John Mellen	1784-1805
Calvin Chaddock	1806-1818
Seth Chapin	1819-1824
Ethan Smith	1827-1832
Abel G. Duncan	1833-1854
Joseph Freeman	1855-1869
Cyrus William Allen	1871-1879
William H. Dowden	1880-1882

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Samuel Evans	1882-1887
William H. Dowden	1888-1890
David Kilburn	1890-1891
James W. Van Kirk	1891-1892
George W. Wright	1892-1895
Edward D. Disbrow	1895-1902
Milledge R. Anderson	1903-1906
Oscar M. Chamberlain	1906-1907
Cloyd G. Hersey	1907
Edwin H. Gibson	1908-1922
Harry F. Titus	1923-1925
Myron R. Bunnell	1925-1928
Dow Strang Clute	1928-1930
Robert W. Putsch	1930-1931
Charles A. Reeves	1931-1934
Vernon A. Loeseher	1935-1940
Roger W. Sawyer	1941-1942
Elton W. Brown	1942-1944
William George Sewell	1944-1953
John G. Gaskill	1954-1958
William B. Parsons	1959-1964

W. Roscoe Riley	1964-1993
Ann Suzedell (Interim)	1993-1994
Donald Remick	1994-2009
Milton Brasher-Cunningham (Associate)	2002-2006
Margaret Clapp (Associate)	2008-2013
Deborah Carter (Interim)	2009-2011
Eric D. Stroshine	2011-

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains the earliest records of the First Congregational Church of Hanover. Included within the records are church meeting minutes, financial records, and important vital records such as membership lists, records of births, marriage records, and records of deaths.

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## Arrangement

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Materials have been arranged in chronological order by start date.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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14 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)  
URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

## **Restrictions on Access**

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

## **Restrictions on Use**

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## **Acquisition Information**

Materials were loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, August 2008, by the First Congregational Church of Hanover; no accession number.

## **Accruals**

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

## **Custodial History**

Materials in the collection were sent to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in 2009 to be microfilmed. Three microfilm copies were made from the original records.

## **Processing Information**

Originally processed by Sari Mauro, September 2013, using DACS Second Edition. Additional description by Robin Duckworth. Reprocessed and redescribed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Baptismal records.
- Church records and registers.
- Church membership.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- First Congregational Church (Hanover, Mass.)
- Hanover (Mass.) -- Church history.

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## Technical Requirements

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A microfilm reader is required in order to access microform materials. One microfilm reader is available to the public upon request.

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

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## Bibliography

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"FCC Hanover - The First 250 Years." First Congregational Church of Hanover. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.fcchanover.org/Church%20History/FCC%20Hanover%20-%20The%20First%20250%20Years.pdf>.

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## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
<p>Church records, 1728-1756</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u>  <b>Digital Copies</b></p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a>.</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>This volume includes the original covenant, church meeting minutes, and lists of births, deaths, and marriages.</p>	box 1	volume 1
<p>Church records, 1756-1818</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u>  <b>Digital Copies</b></p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a>.</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>This volume include church meeting minutes, membership records, and lists of births, deaths, and marriages.</p>	box 1	volume 2
<p>Miscellaneous records, 1785-1800</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u>  <b>Digital Copies</b></p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a>.</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>This volume, written by Joseph Brooks, contains financial records, mostly relating to sacramental wine purchased for the church. The volume also contains records of the deaths of Joseph Brooks' close family members.</p>	box 1	volume 3
<p>Microfilm records, 1728-1818, 2009</p> <p><u>Restrictions on Access:</u></p>	reel Service Copy	

### **Restrictions on Access**

Only the service copy is available for library use. The archival master and print master copies are restricted for preservation purposes.

reel Archival  
Master  
reel Print  
Master

### **Scope and Contents**

These microfilmed church records include copies of the physical materials within the collection: Church records, 1728-1756, Church records, 1756-1818, and the Miscellaneous records, 1785-1800.